

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 SAM-01 IO-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /085 W

----- 091652

R 161502Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1159

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L FREETOWN 1040

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SL KS CH KN

SUBJECT: STATUS OF ROK AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE

REF: FREETOWN 990 (NOTAL)

1. PRESIDENT STEVENS TOLD ME MAY 15 THAT HE HAD CONSIDERED ALL FACTORS AND THAT HE WOULD RECEIVE CREDENTIALS OF AMB-DESIGNATE LEE PRIOR TO HIS OWN DEPARTURE ON VISIT TO NIGERIA THE END OF NEXT WEEK. STEVENS SAID THAT HE HAD CALLED IN NORTH KOREAN AND CHINESE, REPS, BOTH OF WHOSE MISSIONS ARE KNOWN TO HAVE EXERTED STRONG PRESSURE ON GOSL NOT TO RECEIVE LEE, AND TOLD THEM OF HIS DECISION. STEVENS DID NOT GO INTO GREAT DETAILS ABOUT NK AND CHINESE REACTIONS TO ANNOUNCEMENT BUT DID STATE THAT, APPARENTLY TO HIS OWN SURPRISE, NORTH KOREANS "HAD THE GRACE" TO NOTE THAT THIS WAS A DECISION FOR PRESIDENT TO MAKE.

2. COMMENT: WHILE EGG NOT YET COMPLETELY HATCHED, THIS IS FIRST TIME THAT STEVENS HAS PUT A TIME LIMIT ON HIS ASSURANCES THAT HE WOULD ACCEPT LEE'S CREDENTIALS. FACT THAT RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR NOT AMONG THOSE SUMMONED TO BE TOLD OF DECISION SEEMS TO CONFIRM OUR PREVIOUS IMPRESSION THAT SOVIETS DID NOT INVOLVE
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THEMSELVES ON THIS ONE.

3. STEVENS DECISION CAME IN FACE OF CONTINUING OPPOSITION WITHIN CABINET TO THIS MOVE INCLUDING, ACCORDING REPORT AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY, URGINGS THAT STEVENS POSTPONE ACTION ANOTHER MONTH DURING WHICH, IT ALLEGED, ROK "SURE TO FALL" TO NORTH KOREA IN WAKE OF "PROOF IN INDOCHINA OF US UNRELIABILITY" AS AN ALLY. CONTINUING EFFORTS WITHIN CABINET ON BEHALF NORTH KOREANS STEM, IN OUR VIEW, IN PART FROM IDEOLOGICAL PREFERENCE BUT ALSO IN MAJOR PART O LAVISH USE OF MONEY BY NORTH KOREANS HERE.
SAMUELS

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NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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TAGS: PFOR, SL, KS, CH, KN, (STEVENS, SIAKA P)
To: STATE
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